budgIT

The Double Helix of
Civic Awesomeness

The Nigerian Budget is a thick document laden with technical jargon. Its execution often translates into dismal performance, especially in the area of capital projects implementation. Despite Nigeria's treasure-chest of oil revenues and a rising non-oil revenue component, citizens are yet to see a corresponding leap in the delivery of social services, infrastructure and economic development.

This non-performance of the Budget has perpetuated a great disconnect between the government's estimates for revenues and actual expenditure.

BudgIT is a creative organization driven to retell the Nigerian Budget and associated public data in comprehensible detail, across every literacy span. We aim to stimulate citizens' interests around public data and thereby trigger discourse and action towards better governance.

Contents

BOARD MEMBERS

Ms. Ini Onuk - Chairman, Advisory Board
Mr. Bosun Tijani - Member, Advisory Board
Mr. Tunji Lardner - Member, Advisory Board
Mr. Feyi Fawehinmi - Member, Advisory Board
Ms. Eloho Omame - Member, Advisory Board
Ms Ifeoma Malo - Member, Advisory Board
Mr. Oluseun Onigbinde - Member, Advisory Board
Mr. Joseph Agunbiade - Member, Advisory Board
Ms. Mariam Edun - Secretary, Advisory Board

STAFF

Oluseun Onigbinde- Lead Partner
Stanley Achonu- Operations Manager
Mariam Edun- Finance Manager
Funso Oladapo- HR/Admin Officer
Atiku Samuel- Research Lead
Abayomi Akinbo- Research Analyst
Abiola Afolabi- Project Manager, Partnerships
Agunloye Tolutope- Project Manager
Damen Ilevbaoje- Project Officer
Hafsah Ajia-Egbeyemi- Project Manager, Extractives
Segun Adeniyi- Creative Designer
Richard Ofurein- Creative Assistant
Segun Olaleye- Data Analyst
Folasayo Onigbinde- Data Analyst
Dele Bakare- Lead Developer
Temitayo Ogunlolu- Front-End Developer

About BudgIT

Nigeria's return to democratic society in 1999 still carries patches of the military regime. Even in an evolving democratic State such as Nigeria, there exists an opaque curtain around public funds, giving room for corruption to thrive.

Opening up resource-driven economies like Nigeria's, where oil and gas revenue accounts for 74% of all actual receipts is a tough task. With the easy profits of oil and gas disproportionately shared across the society, closed budgets have become a symptom of the dynamics that perpetuate a dysfunctional society, creating a rentier State, strife among ethnicities and also a State-assisted oligarchy.

With prevalent corruption, the efficiency and transparency with which revenue is allocated is reduced, as documented in the poor service delivery and appalling socio-economic indicators that dog Nigeria.

A key appeal for any corrupt class is to wrap a thick veil around government finances, in particular the Budget. An entrenched system of budget opacity breeds exclusion of the wider society through a closure of informed debate among citizens, denying them their inalienable right to actively participate in the allocation of communal resources.

BudgIT was conceptualised at the Tech-In-Governance hackathon organized by the Co-Creation Hub, Lagos in March 2011. We believe that it is the right of every citizen to have access to, and also understand public budgets.

We also believe that budgets must be efficiently implemented for the good of the people. We are an organisation with more than 15 employees, including data analysts, researchers, creative designers, project officers and support staff.

We provide high quality research in simplified formats and with interesting visualisations built using public data, we illuminate the winding corners of government spending for everyday people. We offer policy advice, consultancy services and customised training.

18,800 FOLLOWERS

16,600 LIKES

6 PUBLICATIONS

Oluseun Onigbinde
Lead Partner, BudgIT

Just as evil is perpetrated in darkness, so does secrecy in governance encourage ignoble acts in leadership. The emblem of autocratic regimes and corrupt democracies is to actively ensure the populace remains ignorant. Individuals, organizations and governments whose activities are shrouded in secrecy give room for corruption to thrive and are often against the light of transparency. Democracy, a widely accepted form of governance, rests on the key pillars of justice, the rule of law, equity and transparency. The skewed flow of information in public governance and the thick opaque shield looming around Nigeria's public funds need to be removed, to strengthen the social contract upon which this democracy was, and is being built.

With many Nigerians currently enjoying web access through desktop computers and mobile devices, our creative conversion of the Nigerian Budget into bite-size, understandable content broadcast across all digital platforms has enabled Nigerians to grow into their lifelong role as key actors in participatory governance.

Moving the niche knowledge of the Budget to that of a common understanding across all demographics will initiate - and sustain- a more transparent and open society.

However, the drive for Open Data must be pushed down to the States and Local governments. We must ensure they work ahead to present their budgets down to the finest details, as seen in the Federal Government's Budget to Nigerians.

Its maze of thick documents riddled with complex financial terms has reduced the status of the Budget to a mere news item; reported periodically, with little or no understanding imparted to the vast majority of the public. It is time to open up the Budget at all levels, for all levels of Nigeria's citizens.

The budgets of Nigeria's governments need scrutiny by citizens, to enable the adjusting of expenses to free up more funds for capital projects. Citizens should be able to independently appraise these budgets by verifying implementation levels of every item listed. When no public official has the privilege to withhold information about the stage-by-stage flow of public funds, we would have tangibly deepened the level of trust between the electorate and their leaders.

This is why we built Tracka - a tool which makes government budgets simpler and more accessible for citizens. We are getting results and want to ensure we increase the spread and impact of our advocacy efforts. With Fitila, we are experimenting with data journalism, whilst developing other projects tied to a more transparent, accountable society. We will always do more.

Towards our dream future:
Local spirit, Continental action

Stanley Achonu
Operations Manager, BudgIT

Africa is no country, with its 50-odd nations and territories and thousands of languages and diverse cultures. Yet, within this rich tapestry lies a universal spirit, rising in an increasing number of this continent's citizens. Where wanton corruption persists, the innate human yearning for a better life has melded with the explosion of ICT and produced a new brand of African; one who never passes up an opportunity to demand accountability from their leaders.

These opportunities may not be as widespread or frequent, but by and large, African governments are more cognisant of citizen power. As at the time of publication of this report, Morocco was in the final stages of passing two Bills allowing its citizens challenge decisions made by the government and institutions. With as little as 25,000 signatures, citizens can also propose new laws.

There's Kenya, where four ministers bowed to public outrage and were forced to resign, paving way for investigations into allegations of corruption against them. And Nigeria, where active citizens are increasingly vocal about corruption scandals and demanding accountability. These acts by ordinary citizens are collectively fuelling the change that is gradually spreading across the continent.

Nevertheless, it has been a challenging year for a continent still in dire straits, ravaged by weak governance and stifled by corruption. Daily, the masses are taking action in their local communities to rewrite the story of a continent plagued by the misnomer "the dark continent." This is why BudgIT's advocacy resonates, from Kenya to Sierra Leone, Ghana to Senegal. Scrutinizing public spending, no matter how minute the effort, is one of the fastest ways to lift the shroud that blights - and blinds - this continent.

This critical moment for our continent, as citizens question governments' activities, while others collaborate across nations to amplify their long-standing voices, stems from individual actions that have grown to make a tangible difference. This moment, where the change that is gradually but surely spreading across the continent is fuelled by the small acts of ordinary people, must be sustained.

The minuscule ideas that are spurred in moments of discomfort, of crisis, in those moments when questions concerning our reality as citizens echo in our minds and leave our lips to find fertile ground with like minds, is how we as a people begin and maintain the small changes in our communities. Which in turn translate to the greater impact our countries require for a brighter future.

In our work to shine light in places darkened by corruption, hold government accountable and ensure good governance using technology, we recognise that Nigeria's challenges, are similar to those seen in most countries in Africa. This means that we can cut to the chase by offering BudgIT's tested solutions to Civil Society Organisations working elsewhere to achieve similar goals.

To build our dream future, we must remain locals intent on connecting local initiatives, for continental action.

6 Pillars of BudgIT

The 6 pillars of our recent strategy launched at the beginning of 2014, were developed over the previous year and they provide the framework for our research and policy recommendations:

#1 Budget Access

#2 Fitila

#3 Creative Communications Project for NGOs

#4 Accountable Governance in Justice and Security

#5 Creative Communication of Oil and Gas Revenue

#6 Tracka

The following pages capture the impact of BudgIT's work over 2014, building on a combination of research, data, media monitoring and public-private collaborations

Project #1

Budget Access

BudgIT has implemented the *Access to Budget* program funded by the Omidyar Network, Open Society for West Africa and MacArthur Foundation. Through this project in 2014, BudgIT has made the budget more accessible to citizens, reaching over 175,000 unique citizens in three years using infographics, interactive applications and mobile applications. BudgIT was honored by international and local media as a leading civic startup for making citizens pass daily commentary on the Budget. The key strategy is to reach out first to digitally literate Nigerians, and also follow up with Nigerians living in rural areas.

This calls for the accurate segmentation of BudgIT's audience, to decide what approaches and digital or traditional languages will best result in efficient communication of the Budget.

Beyond projects in local communities, BudgIT also worked with the Westminster Foundation for Democracy (WFD), on gender projects. We highlighted gender-related projects in States' and Federal budgets and presented these in simple graphics. Gender projects have been addressed in our intervention on the WFD project and highlighted in our shared design documents, especially projects at grassroots community level. We produced three publications on the 2014 Proposed and Enacted Budget. We also distributed a document on falling Crude oil prices as guide for institutional response.

BudgIT's Twitter stream, with more than 16,000 followers in 2014 is a hive of daily commentary on the Budget by active followers. It represents the first level of citizen engagement with our creative presentation of the Budget. As Twitter is an immediate medium, this stimulates discussion, articulates in real-time all demands for more transparency, and ensures government accountability.

Modified Budget access causes data to be more open and understandable, igniting citizen participation.

Currently, BudgIT's sphere of influence has been strong in terms of social media, with a focus on social-urban young people. Working with other civic-minded organizations, BudgIT distributed over 35,000 copies of simplified budget documents to citizens in Ekiti and Osun states. BudgIT's website has been visited by over 275,000 unique visitors and has also processed more than 4,000 data requests from online visitors.

Project #2

Fitila
Data Journalism Platform

Fitila is an online platform that presents statistical information as concise, easy-to-read stories, to inform people about the world they live in. The world itself is a story, made up of constantly evolving, varied events. Which is why we have a data journalism platform to enhance reputable, people-focused journalism.

Fitila's primary aim is using data visualisation to complement news narratives by producing content that gives readers the power to explore aspects of a story that interest them, rather than the traditional way of presenting information solely in linear text form, which often implies the point-of-view of the journalist or the media they represent is sacrosanct.
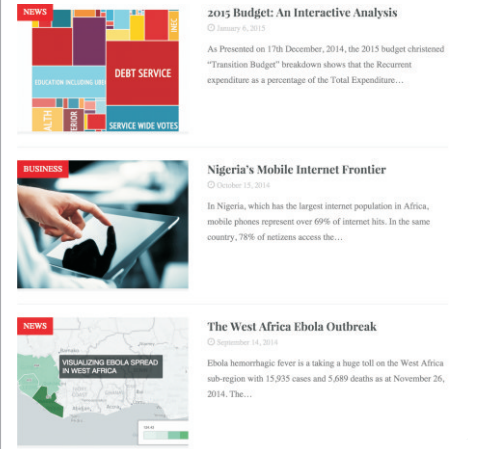
The platform was founded by BudgIT in 2014, and already has a databank of data-driven stories that are easily intelligible and accessible to everyone, regardless of their literacy level. Statistics on their own are just numbers with no tangible meaning. Therefore, their significance to the quality of life of the person in the street must be communicated effectively. Fitila can accommodate large sets of Open Data, and they are transformed and incorporated into a story via colourful interactive graphs and charts. Adding these provides more content for those interested in delving deeper into the data.

Most of the stories on Fitila are framed around information the audience has only a basic knowledge of. Fitila focuses on important societal issues that directly or indirectly affect citizens, to enable them make informed decisions and also understand the workings of government. This platform also takes a proactive role in line with BudgIT's advocacy brief, by highlighting suggestions for institutional reforms which only governments and other public institutions can achieve.

This site also encourages the use of data visualisation in journalism by simply showing how much impact numbers numbers give to a story, once they are creatively presented.

Visit Fitila.ng to see stories.

2015 Budget: An Interactive Analysis
January 6, 2015
As Presented on 17th December, 2014, the 2015 budget christened "Transition Budget" breakdown shows that the Recurrent expenditure as a percentage of the Total Expenditure…

Nigeria's Mobile Internet Frontier
October 15, 2014
In Nigeria, which has the largest internet population in Africa, mobile phones represent over 69% of internet hits. In the same country, 78% of netizens access the…

The West Africa Ebola Outbreak
September 14, 2014
Ebola hemorrhagic fever is a taking a huge toll on the West Africa sub-region with 15,935 cases and 5,689 deaths as at November 26, 2014. The…

33
PUBLISHED DATA DRIVEN STORIES

Project #3

Creative Communications Project for NGOs
Data Visualisation and Mapping

In an effort to support Civil Society Organizations in Nigeria, the Creative Communications Project was created to help CSOs improve their communications strategy and efforts to promote accountability, citizen engagement and institutional reform.

The MacArthur Foundation funds this project and it allows BudgIT train Civil Society Organizations on data presentation and visualization techniques, with the ultimate goal of spurring citizens' demand for accountability and good governance.

Civil society organisations gather a lot of data whilst carrying out their activities and it is important that the data or information that is passed on to their stakeholders is presented in an effective way.

A call for applications saw BudgIT receive a total of 72 applications from CSOs seeking training. Following a detailed review of all applications, 15 CSOs were selected and given custom-made training within three areas: Web Outlook, Social Media Strategies and Report Publishing. The remaining 57 CSOs would receive remote support from BudgIT.

The successful CSOs were chosen based on their needs, as expressed in their applications, as well as on a review of all activities on their online and social media platforms.

They include: Lady Mechanic Initiative; Isawali Empowerment Initiative; Fresh and Young Brains Initiative; Nigeria Network of NGOs; Partners for Justice and Women Rights Advancement and Protection Advocacy. Others are: Women Advocates for Research and Development Center; Center for Information Technology and Development; Community Health and Research; Media Rights Agenda. The final 5 CSOs that make up the cohort are: Center for Change and Community Development; Foundation for Enviromental Rights, Adocacy, 21st Century Community Empowerment

Support for over 30 Civil Society Organisation on Report Publishing and social media skills

Website development for 15 notable Non-Governmental Organisation

2 Workshops on online platform management and data visualisation in Lagos and Abuja
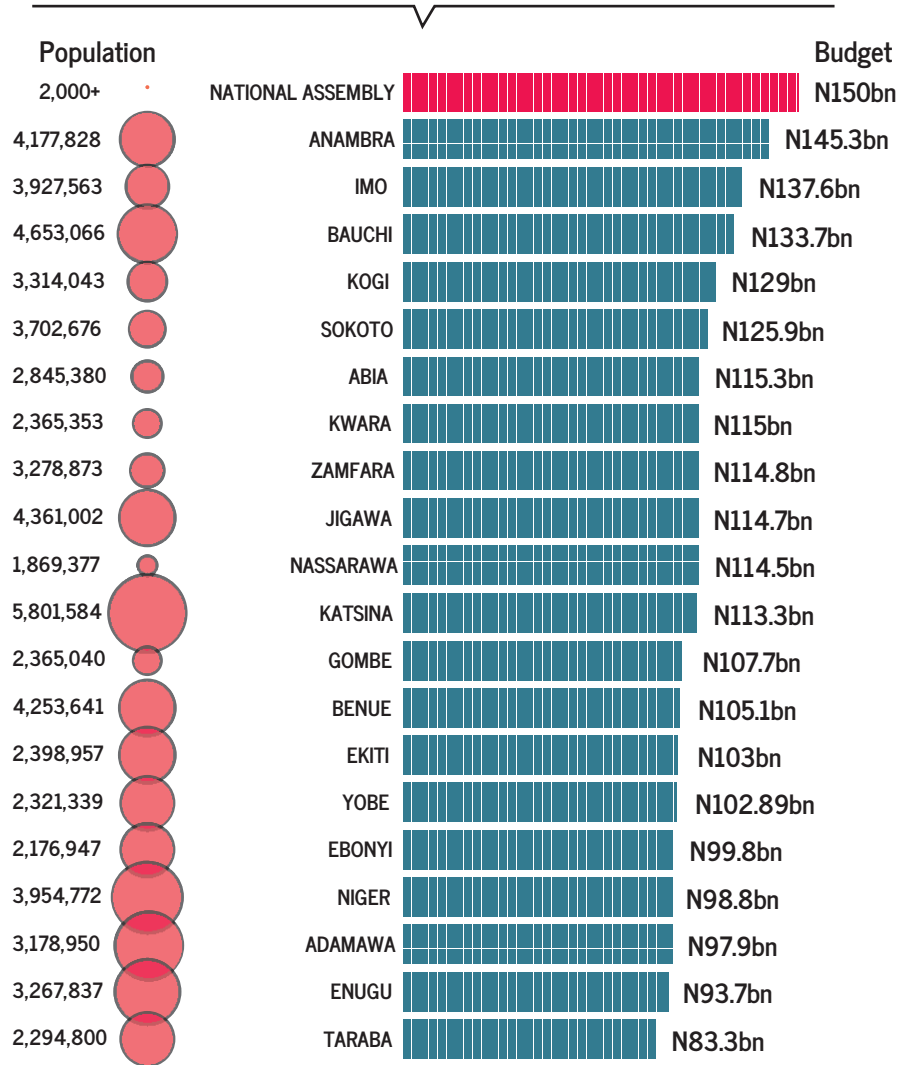
http://www.yourbudgit.com/creative-communications-workshop/

for Youth and Women Initiative; Attah Sisters Helping Hands Foundation, and the Civil Society Legislative Advocacy Center.

BudgIT held the first 2-day Creative Communications sessions from November 2014, at the Ibis Hotel, 23, Toyin Street, Ikeja, Lagos. The workshop concentrated on improving selected CSOs' interaction with stakeholders through their various communication channels of choice, enhancing their communication strategies for better outcomes, as well as giving them the opportunity to network with their peers towards future collaborations on the field.

So far, the project has created 7 websites for CSOs and organized 2 workshops in Lagos and Abuja for civil society organizations across the country to improve their reporting processes, presentations, visualizations, communication campaigns and administrative techniques. We also continue to provide web creation and email services support for the successful CSOs.

NATIONAL ASSEMBLY & 21 STATES

Do you know that the National Assembly's budget is higher than the individual budget for 21 States in Nigeria?

Population		Budget
2,000+	NATIONAL ASSEMBLY	N150bn
4,177,828	ANAMBRA	N145.3bn
3,927,563	IMO	N137.6bn
4,653,066	BAUCHI	N133.7bn
3,314,043	KOGI	N129bn
3,702,676	SOKOTO	N125.9bn
2,845,380	ABIA	N115.3bn
2,365,353	KWARA	N115bn
3,278,873	ZAMFARA	N114.8bn
4,361,002	JIGAWA	N114.7bn
1,869,377	NASSARAWA	N114.5bn
5,801,584	KATSINA	N113.3bn
2,365,040	GOMBE	N107.7bn
4,253,641	BENUE	N105.1bn
2,398,957	EKITI	N103bn
2,321,339	YOBE	N102.89bn
2,176,947	EBONYI	N99.8bn
3,954,772	NIGER	N98.8bn
3,178,950	ADAMAWA	N97.9bn
3,267,837	ENUGU	N93.7bn
2,294,800	TARABA	N83.3bn

Note that the National Assembly Budget (being a statutory transfer) is guaranteed for full performance. Most States' budget performance are subject to States meeting revenue targets and FAAC Allocations.

Source: National Population Commission, Budgit Research

Project #4

Accountable Governance in Justice and Security
Access Nigeria - Sierra Leone

In January 2014, BudgIT joined CLEEN Foundation, Nigeria and Campaign for Good Governance (CGG), Sierra Leone to implement the Technology and Open Government Partnership component of the 'Accountable Governance in Justice and Security' project. This project, also known as AccessNigeria and AccessSierraLeone, is managed by Partners for Democratic Change in Washington, on behalf of the Bureau of International Narcotics and Law Enforcement Affairs of the United States Department of State.

BudgIT started implementing her component of the project immediately by setting targets with CGG and developing a National Action Plan for Sierra Leone to join the Open Government Partnership (OGP). Our advisory role and active support to CGG led to the quick adoption of the plan by the government and people of Sierra Leone. Ahead of a schedule initially judged as short, the OGP announced that Sierra Leone has met all eligibility criteria.

BudgIT continued to advocate that Nigeria follows Sierra Leone's admirable lead. We pursued engagement with the Ministry of ICT and the Open Data Nigeria Working Group, to provide technical support and accelerate the development of the National Action Plan. It would seem that bureaucratic bottlenecks continue to hamper the progress of this project. We remain committed to giving the Working Group and Ministry all the assistance they need and request.

The Development of Open Government (OpenGov) tools was one of the key components of the AGJS project. Following a strategy meeting with Civil Society Organisations, government officials and policy makers, problems that could be tackled using soft technology were identified and presented to tech developers and enthusiasts for review. A Civic Codeathon was held in Nigeria and Sierra Leone, with 6 OpenGov tools built in each country. Some of the tools were adopted by civil society

PROMOTING COLLABORATION BETWEEN CIVIL SOCIETY AND GOVERNMENT

http://accessng-sl.org/

https://www.facebook.com/search/str/civic%20codeathon/keywords_top

organisations and the Police in Sierra Leone.

BudgIT also started focusing its efforts on security agencies, in collaboration with civil society partners. We worked with WANGONeT to provide institutional support to the Nigeria Police Force and with the Public Private Development Centre (PPDC), to engage with the Office of the National Security Adviser (ONSA) on issues around freedom of information in the security sector.

These institutional collaborations have remained the key thrust of the project. We believe that more is achieved from collaborating with agencies than antagonising them, building lasting relationships that will lead to change and be beneficial to the general public.

The media is an important partner is our transparency and accountability campaigns, and the project made provisions to assist journalists in playing their constitutional role efficiently and courageously. We provided Data Journalism training sessions for select journalists, as well as the Investigative Journalism training programme organised by another partner on the project - the Institute for

Peace and War Reporting - in Nigeria and Sierra Leone. This has allowed us to support journalists across a broad spectrum of media organisations in writing data-based stories using public finance data, by working together on the production of illustrations and infographics.

We hope to continue to increase our output under this project, collaborating with government, the media, other CSOs and the general public in our quest for accountable governance in the Justice and Security sectors.

http://www.yourbudgit.com/sierra-leone-the-six-challenge-questions/

http://www.accessng-sl.org

Project #5

Creative Communication of Oil and Gas Revenue

The extractives industry has been a major part of the Nigerian economy since oil was discovered in Oloibiri, Niger Delta in the year 1956, and Nigeria became a major oil producer in 1979 when it started producing 2.4 million barrels per day (mbpd).

Over the years, Nigeria's dependence on this industry has risen to such a level that it now provides about 70% of all revenue for the Nigerian economy and 90% of our foreign exchange. However, the lack of transparency and accountability in this industry continues to undermine the development and stability of the Nigerian economy.

The extractives industry is currently governed by the 1969 Petroleum Act, which has become outdated, and no longer efficiently serves the purpose for which it was enacted. Its replacement, the Petroleum Industry Bill (PIB), has spent close to 1000 days in Nigeria's legislative chamber - the National Assembly (NASS), where its passage is facing stiff resistance from various groups with diverse interests.

With the issues stated above, it is understandable that there is a need for a major appraisal and review of the Nigerian Oil industry, in order to ensure that the mono-product on which Nigeria's economy stands is optimized to its full potential.

BudgIT's Extractive Revenue Data Project, sponsored by the Open Society of West Africa (OSIWA), aims at deconstructing the complex figures released by the Petroleum industry, whenever information is made available.

As Nigeria moves towards two decades of a return to democratic rule, this project will be used to assist her citizens in achieving a better understanding of the numerical value of all revenue generated from the extractives industry by the government. We also aim to provide a collective grasp of the debilitating consequences, or life-changing possibilities which the mismanagement or efficient appropriation of this revenue has brought, and can bring to Nigeria. With this knowledge, citizens' interest will shift towards the flow of revenue from the extractives industry; this should bolster their demands for better utilisation of all funds, and transparency in the industry.

http://yourbudgit.com/oil/
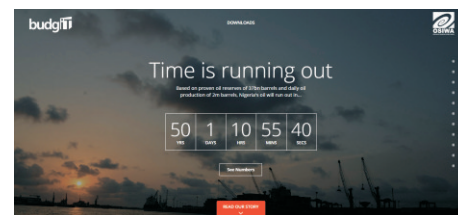
Project #6

Tracka
Citizen Feedback and Accountability

Tracka as a tool was launched in June 2014. Tracka (http://tracka.ng) is a social platform of/for active citizens who are interested in tracking budgets and public projects in their community. Using grassroots monitors and also partners for projects located across the Federation, this approach explores the use of technology to track budgets and also reports to executive and legislative bodies that are responsible for these projects.

Social media will be used to amplify discussions on projects. With the ability to use web, mobile web, apps and SMS, citizens can have a focal point for tracking public projects and report on-the-ground performance to institutions. We have the hashtag #GoingLocal for tweets which receive the most attention.

Objectives

Tracka, like any other project, has its objectives, chief of which are to:

expand the community of active citizens across every literacy span by developing creative tools which encourage the type of engagement between citizens and public institutions that results in improved service delivery; widening on a national and sub-national level the scope of information available to citizens about Nigeria's budget priorities, and getting digitally literate Nigerians to collaborate and curate information for greater transparency.

Presently, Tracka is working on the budgets for Lagos State's capital projects in 2013 and 2014, as well as the federal government constituency projects and gender projects in Delta, Ogun, Imo, Kano, Kaduna and Gombe States, as well as in Abuja (FCT). The platform has also documented the campaign promises of all Presidential aspirants and the Lagos State governorship aspirants, for accurate tracking and monitoring over the course of their time in office.

Tracka team is presently working on a video documentary of all the projects

done in 3 states.

The team tracked a school project called: "Construction of 3 classrooms blocks at Community Primary School, Iwoye-Ilogbo, Ilogbo, Ado Odo/Otta LGA, Ogun West Senatorial District, Ogun State."
A project under the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), this school was not built. The Tracka team placed weekly calls to to the Senator serving this community, Senator Kamar Odunsi. Through his Personal Assistant, Senator Odunsi assured the team that work would commence. We also kept the constituents and Nigerians in general informed, by tweeting the project(s) via @trackaNG. Some weeks after sustained efforts at publicising the plight of the community, it was confirmed - with documented evidence - that classroom construction has started in the school in Ilogbo, Ogun State, in South-Western Nigeria.

The team also tracked a water project tagged in the Budget as: "Provision of 2Nos of Motorized borehole equipped

with solar pump (deep sedimentary) in Uokha, Owan East LGA, Edo state," under the Ministry of Water Resources.

The project was not executed until the Tracka team wrote to the offices of Hon. Iriase P.I Obokhuaime, Senator Obende Domingo Alaba and the Ministry of Water Resources respectively. After a sustained social media campaign and frequent correspondence with the relevant officials, tweets and publicity, the people of Uokha now enjoy potable water.

The same methods were used with great success in Ivbiodehen community in Owan West, Edo State. Residents in this community have since stopped trekking long distances to neighbouring villages to fetch water. We also interviewed the Oba (customary head) of Ivbiodehen during our project post-implementation checks. We interviewed the Ovai of Usumutong, His Royal Highness Ovai Solomon O. Edward and Chief Asodo Osei Francis.

Despite the good intentions of the Tracka team, fieldwork is not always smooth sailing, with regards to the different constituencies visited for project implementation monitoring.

The reception received is varied; sometimes a warm welcome and community members exhibiting a contagious eagerness to work with the team makes it relatively easy for BudgIT to educate the people about the purpose of the visit. In such situations, we have seen citizens that are more proactive, and immediately replicate the tracking interventions BudgIT pioneered.

In some instances however, our team members are treated with suspicion, even after explaining that the purpose of the visit is not of a political nature. This was the case in Okpokhumi community, Edo State. Team members visited to investigate implementation levels of an N8,000,000 project called: "Construction of three (3) classroom blocks, Ebira Camp, Owan East in Edo State," and barely escaped bodily harm. We are aware that cases like these are brought on by widespread, entrenched misinformation and lack of information, which makes urgent the need to deepen our reach within online and offline demographics. Online, we plan to have mobile applications where information on projects can be uploaded on-the-go. This app will be available by the 2nd quarter of 2015. Offline, the plan is to have local community groups installed within the grassroots population. Each community will have a Tracka contact person, who is aware of all provisions in the Budget for their communities. They will bring together their fellow residents and hold regular meetings to discuss project implementation. As residents with a vested interest in their own communities, they will also continuously advocate throughout the year, to ensure that these projects are completed. The essence of this strategy is to make Tracka a community-driven tool, so that communities will take up the task of intervening to guarantee that projects listed in the Budget are executed, while these citizens gain a greater understanding of how budgets work, and their constitutional entitlement to sterling service delivery. The non-implementation of capital projects in localities is unfortunately a universal phenomenon; therefore we plan to move to Gambia, Sierra Leone and other West African countries. Citizens of these countries can also report, advocate and monitor Budget performance across the region.

We will be measuring Tracka by impact level and the timeliness of each project in attaining full implementation status.

Ordinary People, Extraordinary Work

Abiola Afolabi
Project Manager, BudgIT

We ensure our work counts by fostering good governance in Nigeria using social media platforms to create awareness and increase involvement around governance issues. Our commitment is to simplify our research, so it is understandable by every citizen and available as widely as possible, due to the role proactive citizens play in forcing, and maintaining social and economic development.

At BudgIT, we believe the Budget should be common knowledge; every citizen should have access to and comprehend it. We create a platform where individuals and organizations track government-approved projects in their States to reduce corruption and can speedily blow the whistle on cases of abandoned projects.

Diverse channels for messages

BudgIT is expanding its use of infographics to illuminate key facts on complex topics. We engage our audiences through digital channels like Twitter, Facebook and Instagram, to achieve our goal of effective visual communication.

Though Nigeria has experienced an increase Internet usuage, the vast majority of the population, a whopping 170 million people are offline.

BudgIT believes that a lack of Internet access should not be a barrier to the understanding of public data. Therefore, we connect with the grassroots population through our Citizens' Advocacy Project, by providing them with a simplified printout of projects contained in the Budget which fall within their locality, and also holding Townhall meetings to enlighten locals on how to seek and maintain discourse with their representatives in the House and National assemblies.

Victims of the Times

BudgIT works only because certain legends had ordinary lives but spent it doing extraordinary things, creating a channel for us to exhibit our work and hopes for a better world. We would not be here today if Tim Berners-Lee had not founded the World Wide Web; if General Abdulsalami Abubakar had not allowed Nigeria transition to democratic rule or if Nikola Tesla did not invent the alternating current electricity supply. And what if Brendan Eich had not created the JavaScript programming language? Their labour makes ours possible, and lighter, despite the emotional weight of our responsibilities.

Symbols of a Movement

We also remind ourselves constantly of a quote by John F. Kennedy that: "If not us, who? If not now, when?"
We end this in humility, and the knowledge that in our world exists well over a thousand replacements, should we dare to relent in this enormous work that we are now privileged to oversee. We understand that the Zeitgeist has randomly selected us, ordinary people, at this particular time to do what BudgIT does, and intends to keep doing for the foreseeable future. So we hereby restate our commitment to remain in the service of our communities, for the sake of our generation and those to come, because we believe this is our duty to humanity.

THE GROWTH NUMBERS

Using Civic Technology to Intersect Citizen Engagement and Institution Reform

1

Leading Infographic design organisation in Nigeria, mostly on issues of governance

24

Supports 24 civil society organizations in Nigeria on creative communication

16

Dedicated Team of 16, which includes coders, data analysts and project managers

275,000

Number of Unique users reached since 2012

6

Six institutional donors, supporting the campaign for Transparency

Top 2 reasons for visiting the BudgIT website
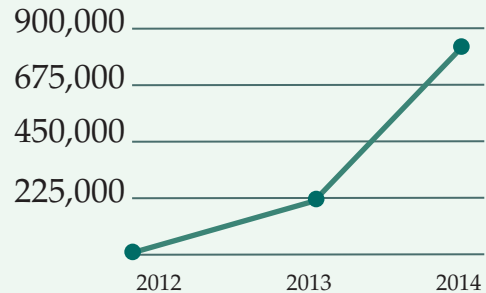
Infographics   Research

51%   **35%**

Revenue raised from 201,000 USD in 2013 to 824,000 USD in 2014

900,000		
675,000		
450,000		
225,000		
2012	2013	2014

Consolidated Statement Of Financial Activities (Including Income and Expenditure Account) For The Year ended December 2014

	2014 $'000	2014 ₦'000	2013 $'000	2013 ₦'000	
Incoming Resources					
Incoming resources from generated funds					
Grants and Project Finances	783,045.09	129,202,440	195,114.34	32,193,866	
Infographics	17,342.71	2,861,548	9699.27	1,600,380	
Other Income	63,538.79	10,483,900	6,310	1,041,092	
Interest Income	279.39	46,100	224.45	37,035	
Total Incoming resources	864,205.98	142,593,987	211,348	34,872,373	Note 1
Resources Expended					
Sub-Contract	40,969.70	6,760,000	0		
Personnel Cost	166,922.30	27,542,180	39,424	6,505,000	Note 2
Training Cost	5,869.39	968,450	2,763	455,815	
Travelling Expenses	97,781.74	16,133,987	13,628	2,248,582	Note 2
Infographics	212.12	35,000	6,341	1,046,250	
External Consultancy/Research	18,909.09	3,120,000	15,801	2,607,175	
IT Related Expenses (TRACKA & BUDGIT)	63,000.30	10,395,050	13,026	2,149,350	Note 2
External Support	3,293.33	543,400	0		Note 3
Rent	9,848.48	1,625,000	4,091	675,000	
Volunteers Cost (Data Mining)	0	0	2,424	400,000	
Design Consultancy	7,151.52	1,180,000	0	0	
Outstanding Loans	7,272.73	1,200,000	0	0	
Publications	11,233.94	1,853,600	10,600	1,748,970	
Adverts and Promotions	40,451.25	6,674,457	5,388	889,000	
Event	36,787.72	6,069,973	0	0	
Bank Charges	3,169.63	522,989	616	101,617	
Competition	303.03	50,000	0	0	
General and Admin. Expenses	3,941.98	650,426	797	131,500	
Total resources expended	**517118.25**	85,324,512	114,899	18,958,258	
	0.00				
Net Incoming resources	347,087.73	57,269,475	96,449	15,914,115	
Net Assets - Beginning	96,449.18	15,914,115	0	0	
Net Movement in funds	443,536.91	73,183,590	96,449	15,914,115	

*1USD =165

FINANCIAL AND OPERATIONAL PERFORMANCE

Mariam Edun
Finance Manager, BudgIT

NOTES

1. BudgIT as at end of year 2014 has raised total revenue of N142.59m, higher than the total revenue of N34.87m for the year 2013. The 2014-year revenue is derived from grants advanced by international donors while the rest is sourced from contracts and consultancy - mostly from private organizations, NGOs and International donor organizations.

   The weakness in the current revenue model is evident in fluctuations in income, as quarterly revenue dipped from N28.72m in Q1 2014 to N9.46m in Q2 2014 to N71.49m in Q3 2014 and N32.91m in Q4 2014. This fluctuation was in an upward swing due to support from Omidyar Network (N32m) and Open Society for West Africa (N9.6m) received in Q3 2014.

   We believe that rethinking our revenue matrix in terms of sustainability is crucial to guard against this inherent weakness in a non-profit model.

2. Our biggest expense is on Personnel Costs, reaching N27.54m as at 2014 from N6.5m as at end of 2013. The organization currently has 18 staff and 2 interns, with a monthly wage bill of N2.2m per month. The rising increase in Travelling Expenses from N2.24m to N16.13m is due to increased monitoring of projects across states by project officers and consultants.

   Our biggest challenge is the rising expense of technology consulting, from N2.24m in 2013 to N10.39m in 2014. The major cost for technology development was on Tracka (our project tracking tool) and our website upgrade which costs N6.34m. Our gross expense is planned to be reduced in the next year as we hire a permanent Technology Officer.

3. We cannot guarantee that our Rent and operational costs will remain low at N1, 625, 000 as at Q4 2014 because negotiations on moving into our permanent office are ongoing. We forecast an extra charge of N5.5m for two-year rent and other office items. Our plan is to adopt cost-cutting measures, going forward, to offset our rising operational costs in 2015. The current rent has been fully accounted for in the funds provided by donors.

SUSTAINABILITY

Based on its current model of raising funds mostly through grants by charity foundations and impact investors, BudgIT revenues are unpredictable, and this calls for more strategic models that guarantee sustainability, most especially for the impact growth of the organization.

We believe that if revenues keep fluctuating and are also tied to the dictates of grant organizations, there might be little chance to innovate with new products and also have a consistent impact pattern. This is why it is important to consider corporate offerings as a spin-off of the organization.

The approach is to ensure that by 2018, BudgIT generates 40% of its revenues on an annual basis from corporate services related to data, which focuses on the following but is not limited to:
·   Creative Document Re-Design
·   Infographics for Corporates
·   Data Science
·   Big Data and Social Media Analytics
·   Predictive Analysis
·   Data Journalism

GRANTS
$783,045.09

SERVICE & OTHERS
$81,160

LIST OF DONORS & PARTNERS

A

ACTION AID

C

CO-CREATION HUB LIMITED
CLEEN FOUNDATION
CAMPAIGN FOR GOOD GOVERNANCE

E

EIE NIGERIA

F

FEPAR/DFID

I

INNOVATION MATTERS LIMITED
INSTITUTE FOR PEACE AND REPORTING

M

MACARTHUR FOUNDATION

O

ONE CAMPAIGN UK
OPEN OIL
OPEN KNOWLEDGE FOUNDATION
OXFORD POLICY MANAGEMENT LTD
OPEN SOCIETY FOR WEST AFRICA
OMIDYAR NETWORK

P

PRIVATE PUBLIC DEVELOPMENT CENTER
PARTNERS FOR DEMOCRACTIC CHANGE
PARTNERSHIP FOR JUSTICE

T

THE KURAMO REPORT
TIERS

U

US STATE DEPARTMENT (BUREAU OF INTERNATIONAL LAW
& NARCOTICS AFFAIRS)

W

WESTMINSTER FOUNDATION FOR DEMOCRACY